

# The Dedmon Connection

SEPTEMBER 2004 - Number 28

(Dedmon, Dedman, Deadman, Deadmon, Dedmond, Dedmond, etc.)



**Leroy Dedmon**

Here it is..... September and Labor Day... I have always thought it should be called Non Labor Day. Of course there are many who do work on that day.... I ran across this interesting article while searching for info on Labor Day.

## **Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means**

“Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country,” said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. “All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man’s prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation.”

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

## **The First Labor Day**

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Today, Labor Day is observed not only in the U.S. but also in Canada, and in other industrialized nations. While it is a general holiday in the United States, its roots in the working class remain clearer in European countries.

It has come to be recognized in the U.S. not only as a celebration of the working class, but even more so as the unofficial end of the summer season. In the northern half of the U.S. at least, the summer vacation season begins with Memorial Day and ends with Labor Day.

*I am sure that all of you probably already knew this, but some of it was new to me, so I thought just maybe, there was one or two that might appreciate the newly found knowledge. I remember when school started the day after Labor Day. I usually stayed at my cousins’ or grandmother’s house until then. Mom and Dad would always show up to take me home in time for school. Now school, in some places has already been in session almost a month by the time Labor Day arrives. Times sure have changed since I was a boy....*

*--Leroy*



Some of my fondest memories of childhood is all the fun and games we had as kids... Our across-the-street-neighbor, Bill Thompson, told me at my dad's funeral that I should have put a patent on some of the games I made for us.

We really didn't have a lot to spend on "store bought" games, so I did in fact make most of them. I remember making a monopoly game. I copied the board out of the Sears-Roebuck catalog. Making the money out of paper was not too difficult and we had plenty of buttons for houses and hotels.

One of my most "memorable" projects was the miniature baseball field I built under the house. We would flip marbles with a little stick at blocks of wood carefully placed around the little park. The various wood blocks would represent the value of the hit... single, double, triple, etc... Of course, over the fence was a home run... We used real major league line-ups as we knew all of them in those days... After all, each league only had eight teams.

I made all our "baseballs and bats" that we used to play with in the back yard. I made our gloves out of denim from old blue jeans. I even made us some boxing gloves. My brother, Tom, reminded me the other day how I convinced him that it was better for him to use the gloves with the most padding...

When we were able to hit the ball all the way to the barn, we thought we were ready for the "big" leagues. I went by the old home place the other day and I do believe someone has moved the barn closer to the house.

I made a good hind catcher out of Tom as I made him catch while I threw the ball at Bill as he tried to hit my fast ball. I was untouchable, that is until they found out the pitcher's mound was more than 20' feet from home plate... those were the days..



**(L-R) BILL, RUTH, LEROY, CAROLYN AND TOM..... PUT THESE SIBLINGS IN ORDER ACCORDING TO THE YEAR OF THEIR BIRTH, BEGINNING WITH THE MOST RECENT...**

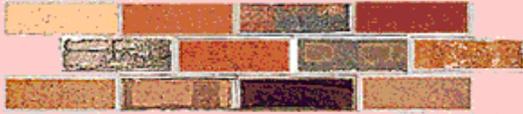
OK.. I admit that I am the oldest of the five children born to Ruby Dickson and Gordon Lee Dedmon. However, if you look closely, I don't have the gray hair that some of my younger siblings have.... It just thrills them for someone to ask, "which one is the oldest?", so they can point to me... but it thrills me that they have to ask before they know which is the oldest... of course how much difference is there between fifty seven and sixty five? ..... just eight..... so the correct answer is Bill, then Tom, next is Ruth and then Carolyn and I am last.

It is still difficult for me to realize that I am sixty-five years old. I told mom the other day that one would have to be pretty old to have a son as old as I am.. She replied, "well I am ninety two!!!" Now that is something very difficult for me to realize... Her mind is remarkably well, and she is pretty active. The other day she went to the garden and picked a sack of peas, brought them to the house, shelled them and put them in the freezer... A friend of ours gave us a small bag of apples (a grocery store bag). From that one bag she made an apple cobbler, seven pints of jelly, 4 pints of apple sauce and five pints of apple butter. All that was left was the peels, some core and bad places we cut out... all that was placed in the compost heap. She is the master of conserving.



**RUBY DICKSON DEDMON**

## THE BRICK WALL



*I have discovered at least five major Deadman branches that we have not been able to connect. If you have information on any of the Deadman family branches, please submit.*

**From:** Jackie Bishop [JMBHDB@aol.com]

**To:** gldedmon@alltel.net

**Subject:** Re: Dedmon Family

Thanks for responding - are you the Leroy w/ prior email [minister@mindspring?](mailto:minister@mindspring?)

If so, I was going through your website for a long time yesterday and thoroughly enjoyed. Here's the email I sent after going through the website (<http://dedmon.org/>). I've not had time to read all the newsletters yet but plan to as time permits. If you're this Leroy, would it be possible to place the information I sent in the newsletter. I'm not a writer so no problem for you to edit, etc. A Tim Dedmon had given me the website URL and when I sent you an email that bounced I wrote him and asked if he'd forward to you (the below)

Will appreciate any help - Jackie Mae Bishop

Subject: Great Dedman/Dedmon— website

I've been going through your website (<http://dedmon.org>) all afternoon with a fine tooth comb - just feel sure there's a connection but can't find it.

#380 sure makes me wonder if connection - John Joseph Dedmon, Sr. (1845-) m/Rachel White (1845-) and one of their sons Felix ended up in Van Zandt Co, Tx - can't help but wonder if John and Rachel also may have since death unknown, #381 Then his brother Wm James Dedmon, Sr. (1849-1909) m/ Assenath White (1844-1900) sister of Rachel, John's wife.

Going through your website for about the period of time they lived in same areas as my ancestors - Georgia, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma. Also so many of the same names - Wm, Wilford, Arthur, Rufus (last 3 unusual names) My great aunt (?Tillie?) White m/John Dedmon in the late 1800s into early 1900s they lived in the VanZandt Co, Tx area. Their known children were Matt, Fannie, John Jr., Ed but there were others.

We corresponded the end of last year but I dropped the ball and wanted to get back with you to see if you might have additional information, etc. Sincerely, Jackie Mae Bishop

I saw this list of Dedmon's on the web and thought I'd ask if you have information on the following:

John Dedmon, Sr. m/ (?Tillie? - nickname) White and their known children were Matt, Fannie, John Jr., Ed but there were other children. John and ?Tillie? were born about 1850. In the late 1800s and early 1900s they lived in the Wood Co / Van Zandt Co, Tx area. Their niece Emma Dedmon married Wm White but they divorced.

In late 1800s ?Tillie? White's brother, James E. White w/ wife (Margaret Thatcher Copeland White) and 5 boys (James Andrew, William Newton, Rufus Arthur, Wilford Carol and Ollie Ondus) went from Williamson Co, TX to the Van Zandt / Wood Co, TX area with the intent of picking up the Dedmons, and all moved on to Oklahoma. Some Dedmons moved to Oklahoma with the White's but the John Dedmon Family decided not to move to Oklahoma even though other Dedmons did. 3 of the White boys would go to Arkansas to help family with their crops so I know some of the Dedmons lived in Arkansas.

Also understand Dedmons moved to Texas via Arkansas from Georgia (around Walker Co, Ga) I realize I'm rambling but trying to mention anything I can think of that might help in making connection.

I've been seeing a Rachel White that married a John Dedmon - both born about 1845 both born in Georgia but no indication as to where they died (maybe Texas ?). This John Dedmon's parents were William D. (Billy) DEDMON & Ellender Nellie MCENTIRE. Wonder if there's connection between them and my line. Also been seeing John Dedmon's brother William m/ Assenath White (Rachel's sister) Several Dedmon's marrying White's and can't help but wonder if connection

Any help will be appreciated - Jackie Mae Bishop

***Thank you Jackie, and don't worry about rambling, that's how we get information. Ok, all you researchers and genealogists, give Jackie some help. Surely some of this rings a bell and gives you something to work with. I do believe she is right..... there has to be a connection and my faith in you says someone will find it..***

From: Burt (Richard Dedmon)

Subject: RE: family

Thanks for the info Leroy

My Dad was born in Spur Texas and his brother Roy Lane Dedmon retired from the Army after about thirty years. Dad and Uncle Roy went to Texas State Chiropractic College in San Antonio and Dad was the only one to stay in Texas. My Uncle Ray went to Colorado and cowboied around the Grand Junction area till he died about 15 years ago. My Uncle Guy died in the Battle of the Bulge. My Mom was born in Cairo Illinois (Blois Bernice Barr) the child of Myrtle and Fred Barr. Dad and Mom had three children - my older sister Myrtle Anne Dedmon - myself - and a younger sister who died when I was very young. I was born in Knox City Texas Jan 18 1942. The family moved a lot while I was young (I suspect grief over my sister). We wound up in Lake Charles, Louisiana. I grew up on the rivers and trails there with a fishing pole or gun 90 percent of the time. I joined the Air Force and went to Taiwan, Matsue, and Quimoi the first hitch. I went to Vietnam and stayed till April 28 1975. I worked on the Apollo program on the Eastern Test Range (Bahamas) and from there to the laser optic business with Lockheed. Now I work for Northrop Grumman on military shelter layouts and functions. This might be too much info. My Nickname is Burt

*Thanks Burt, you can never send too much info.*

*Editor's Comment: I am sure that some of you recognize the connection of Richard (Burt) to Arthur Guy Dedmon, whose children, Jennifer Dedmon and Michael Ellis, were contestants on Big Brother 5. (See the July issue of THE DEDMON CONNECTION) Richard's father, Richard Burton Dedmon, was a brother to Roy Lane Dedmon. Roy's son, Arthur Guy Dedmon II, is the father of Jennifer and Michael. Guy was one of the first to respond to some of my early inquiries that I sent via email to all the Dedmons that I could find. The last account I had of him was that he was living in Nashville, TN. I have planned to look him up, but never have.*

## From the Mail Bag

**From:**

cshannon10@comcast.net

**Subject:** Dedmon info



Hi Leroy,

I haven't communicated with you for a couple of years. My name is Colleen Marie (Dedmon) Shannon. I was actually looking on the ellisland.org website. My children went there about 2 weeks ago, but they didn't see my maiden name listed. I told them how the spelling has changed over the years. Today I was looking for the genealogy that you had sent me. I can't seem to find it and was wondering if you could send it to me again. I also have some updates for you. I'm not sure which ones I told you about. My father's name was James F. Dedmon Jr., my gpa was James F. Dedmon Sr., my ggpa was Justus Erwin Dedmon. I hope all is well with you. The site looks great. I also have really old pics that I inherited from my gpa's stuff. I have no clue who they are and was wondering if you'd like them. I think some have names on them. Thank you.

Colleen Shannon

**From:** Danny McBee [mailto:McBee49@aol.com]

**Subject:** Re: DEDMON CONNECTION vol 25

Leroy, I have been in touch with Eddie Hightower. I gave him quite a bit of information on his Deadman ancestry. I have asked that he also give us the information on the Cavender's that we don't have. We have very little history on George Washington "Watt" Cavender. I look forward to corresponding with him to further our Deadman history. Hope all is well. Happy Belated Birthday Cousin. We are on vacation at our home at the beach. Have a great day. The Dedmon Connection looks great. I will submit an article soon. Thank you for all you do. Our heritage and research lives on. Cousin Danny A. McBee.

*Thank you Danny, I can always count on you to follow up on this kind of information. Am looking forward to receiving your articles. I am still trying to work out a trip to the North Carolina area...*

# DEATH NOTICES

## HIGHTOWER AND SANDIFER DEATHS *Collapse of Tunnel Kills Young Boy*

His name was R. Lloyd Sandifer, Jr. and he lived in Ulmer, SC. I don't know which branch of the Sandifer family he descended from. I don't remember ever meeting him. We have a lot of members at Rivers Bridge. I am certain that Bobby knows him. He was born in Kline, SC, and was a Marine veteran of WWII. He was a volunteer Guardian ad litem for Barnwell and Bamberg Counties.

R. Lloyd Sandifer, Jr. sounds as though he was a very good member of the Sandifer family whichever branch he belonged to. I would have been proud to have called him "cousin." There was another death in Tuesday's T&D which made me sit back and take a deep breath. It was headed: **Trenton Boy Killed When Tunnel Collapses.**

The all too familiar story read: "An 11-year-old Trenton boy has died after a tunnel he was digging collapsed on him." Laron Ennis was trying to build a tunnel about 40 yards from his home when it collapsed.

Aiken County Deputy Coroner Tim Carlton said. "The boy's father, Ted Ennis, found him around 6:45 pm. The boy was taken to the Aiken Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead just after 8 pm."

Rusty, I am sure that my Grandmother "Gertie" Sandifer Hightower shared the same feelings which crushed the boy's father when he learned that his son had been in such a tragic accident. It is hard to imagine the grief that Granny "Gertie" suffered when Victor Whetstone, Sr. informed her of the same news that Thurston Whetstone — Vic Sr.'s brother — and my father Voncile had been suffocated in a tunnel, or cave, collapse behind her house near Elzey's landing on the South Ediston. The two boys were about the same age as the young boy who died in the same type accident on Monday in Trenton, SC.

As you know from one of the most memorable Hightower/Sandifer family stories, that the earlier accident which occurred near the crossroads of the Finland and Sweden Roads at Rock's Country Store had a somewhat different outcome. Bodies of both young boys were taken to their respective homes after a doctor, probably Dr. Matthews from Denmark, came out from Denmark and pronounced both dead.

As the Whetstone and Hightower families gathered at the two neighboring homes to mourn the passing of their loved ones who were just too young to suffer such a terrible end to their lives, I am certain that there was much sadness. Rusty, I would not be surprised to learn that Uncle "Bob Lee" and Aunt Pauline were there to give their support to Aunt Pauline's sister along with all of the other Hightower and Sandifer family members who we might now remember, or at least see listed in the genealogies which we now treasure so much. Thank God, the difference in the old family story differs from this week's tragedy in one outstanding respect.

You remember, I am sure, the description of how the mourning family members who were sharing their love with Granny Gertie, suddenly changed their emotions when they viewed Voncile entering the front room after being revived to life and walking in their midst. He was barely awake and drowsy after his ordeal, but they were scampering for the nearest exit, thinking they were witnessing the dead rising in their presence.

The old family story relates that Granny "Gertie" realized that her prayers had been answered, but that she was one of the few, if not the only one, who remained in the house after such an extraordinary personal event was experienced. I am sure that Aunt Pauline and Uncle Bob Lee, because of their very close relationship to Daddy and Granny "Gertie", would have been among those who did not flee at the unexpected sight of my Daddy. And as you also know, the mourning of family members over at the Whetstone home was unfortunately never interrupted by any such glorious event as next door. Vic, Sr.'s younger brother Thurston Whetstone had suffered the same eternal result as the young boy in Trenton, S.C. earlier this week. Both are eternally at peace and rest.

The greatest praise must be given to Mr. Victor Whetstone, Sr., who pulled both of the boys from the cave-in as he discovered their legs and feet sticking out of the pile of sand down near the South Ediston. It is just so sad that both families did not share the joy with my Grandmother.

All of us who are of the Voncile Hightower family are forever indebted to Victor Whetstone, Sr. because of his actions as a hero. I am pleased to say I have seen many of these admirable qualities in the son, Victor Whetston, Jr. over the years that I have shared a friendship with him.

Your Cousin Eddie

## From the Mail Bag



Hi Cavender  
and Dedmon  
Kin Folks, I am

attaching a photo  
of the Cavender (or Villanow)  
Country Store in Villanow, Ga. On  
the front porch of the old store is my  
Great-Grandfather Joseph Warren  
Cavender, who is wearing the white  
shirt and vest. It appears that he is  
sharing his exploits in the War Between  
the States with three of his gentlemen  
friends and there are a few children  
hanging around on the steps. One of  
them could be my Grandfather Judson  
Cicero Cavender, who was his only son.

This is the oldest photo of the  
Villanow store which I have seen.  
The store is on the National Register  
of Historic Places and is said to be  
the oldest, continually operating  
country general store in the State of  
Georgia.



Joseph Warren Cavender owned and operated the country store in Villanow longer than any of its many other owners and operators. Some of the more recent owners have been the Edwards, who still live in Villanow and operate a sod-farm there and the current owners by the name of Voss. In fact, the young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Voss was recently credited with finding a young girl who had been missing from her home in Villanow over-night. The young Voss girl thought that the missing girl might be at the home of a relative near by. She was found sleeping safely on the front porch of the vacant house. Joseph Warren Cavender was the grandson of Clemeth Cavender, Sr. and Rachel Rebecca Dedmon Cavender.

In addition to his son Judson Cicero Cavender, Joseph Warren Cavender and Martha Almeda "Mattie" Clements Cavender also had four daughters who survived childhood. The daughters' names were Georgia, Clemmie, Minnie, and Myrtis. Less than a mile from the store in the photo and on the same highway is the old Cavender Homeplace and the Cavender Family Cemetery. In the cemetery are the six resting places of my Great-Grandparents Cavender and her parents, Dr. Adam Clements and Mary Park Hill Clements. The other two graves belong to the two children of Joseph Warren and "Mattie" who did not survive childhood.

If any of you cousins who receive this e-mail have any more old photos of the Cavender Country Store or photos of Joseph Warren and "Mattie" Cavender, I would appreciate you sharing them with us. Also, any photos of Rachel Rebecca Dedmon and her parents or children would be equally appreciated.

---Eddie Hightower

**From: Eddie Hightower [Eedyedgar@aol.com]**

**Sent: Saturday, August 07, 2004 10:53 AM**

**Subject: GREAT-GRAND DADDY JOSEPH WARREN**

My good friend Gene Davis sent me this. I had seen it before, but had never kept it... To Grandparents!

## What is a grand-parent?

(taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of her own. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man grandmother.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters for us.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They show us and talk to us about the color of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on "cracks."

They don't say, "Hurry up." Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart. They have to answer questions like "why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?". When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snack-time before bedtime and they say prayers with us every time, and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

Pass this along to another Grandparents. It will make their day. Grandparents day is Sept. 12th.

## From the Mail Bag

(Continued from page 6)



**Shelby High School  
Soccer Awards Banquet  
Varsity Awards  
Honorable Mention  
Will Dedmon**



*I am not sure how current this is as I could not find the date, but surely some of you have a little more information on this.* -Leroy



**CHARLEY HOUSTON DEDMON, STELLA NOBLES (PAPPA AND GRANNY DEDMON) IN FRONT OF AUNT LAURA'S HOUSE WITH TWINS, LOU & SUE, LARRY (FRONT) AND ME (IN THE DRESS) OBVIOUSLY AT EASTER.**

*This photo was posted on the Dedmon Family Page at MyFamily.com, by Debbie Freeman*

## The Van Gogh Family Tree

Vincent Van Gogh's relatives were:

His dizzy aunt—————Verti Gogh

Brother who ate prunes————Gotta Gogh

Brother who worked at a 7-11——Stop 'n Gogh

Grandfather from Yugoslavia——U Gogh

Brother who bleached his clothes——Hue Gogh

Cousin from Illinois—————Chica Gogh

His magician uncle—————Where-diddy Gogh

His Mexican cousin—————Amee Gogh

Mexican cousin's USA half-brother---Gring Gogh

Nephew who drove a stage coach—Wells-far Gogh

The constipated uncle—————Cant Gogh

The ballroom-dancing aunt————Tang Gogh

The bird lover uncle—————Flamin Gogh

His nephew psychoanalyst————E Gogh

The fruit-loving cousin—————Man Gogh

Aunt who taught positive thinking—Wayto Gogh

The little bouncy nephew—————Poe Gogh

A sister who loved disco—————Go Gogh

Niece who travels the country—Winnie Bay Gogh

Well, there you Gogh

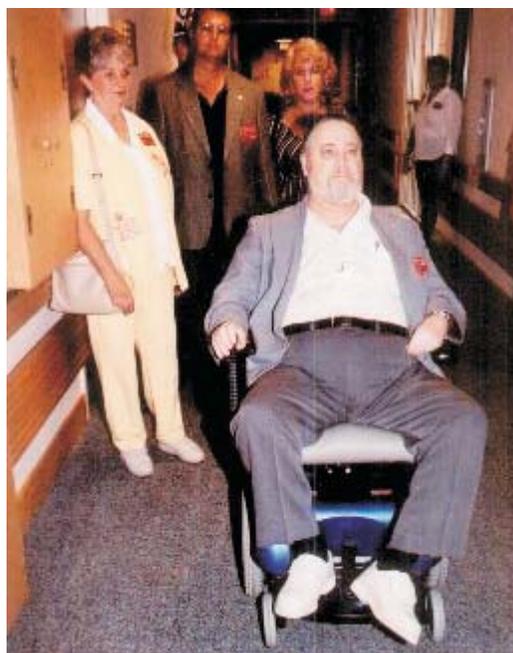
*I received this from my good friend, Ken Lovvorn. He was an elder at the Bremen Church of Christ when I preached there. Presently, he attends the Bowdon Church of Christ, where my brother, Bill, preaches. He tries to be funny, but he has a long way to gogh.*

## Jackie and Charles (Chuck) Dedman

Jackie Dedman has been among the first of those who have been a great help and encouragement to me in the family research project.

She was the founder and editor of the Dedman Connection, a publication which preceded my Dedmon Connection. She encouraged me to begin the Dedmon Connection, which I did. It is hard for me to believe that this is issue number 28. Time flies when you are having fun.... ...and this really is fun...

The Dedman Connection was not an "on line" publication and was published during the time when research and communication was much more difficult. I am not sure how many issues she published, but I have several and as I have promised in the past, am going to convert them to an on line version. It will be a time consuming task, so be patient...



*This picture of Jackie and Chuck was taken at the Shriners Hospital in Tampa. Chuck was inducted into the Shriners, he had worked at it for quite a while, having been a member of the Lexington, KY Masonic Lodge for many years. It was very good to hear from them again.*

*She wrote recently: Well I am doing what I can preparing for hurricane Frances. ....Take care, have to go as first band of storms will be arriving in about 2 hours. I have a lot to do. Jackie*